Master *Peters*

MESSUAGE FROM Sir Thomas Fairfax,

Delivered in both Houses of the Lords and Commons in Parliament Assembled:

With the whole state of the West, and all the particulars about the disbanding of the Princes and Sir *Ralph Hoptons* Army.

Together with his Majesties Proclamation.

Also the totall routing of Sir *Jacob Ashley* himselfe, and 1500. taken Prisoners, their Carriages and Ammunition also taken by Colonell *Morgan* and Sir *William Brereton.*

Commanded to be printed at the desire of divers Members of Parliament, and published according to Order.

LONDON,
Printed for *Matthew Walbancke*, 22 March, 1645.

LIBRARY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

Maſter *Peters* Meſſuage from Sir *Thomas Fairfax.*

Maſter Speaker;

AFter the Lord had appeared for our Army at Torrington, and had written his name in ſuch viſible characters before the faces of many, counſell was taken to purſue the Enemy into Cornwall, and the rather becauſe the ſcattering of that body of Horſe would after an eſpeciall manner promote our future deſignes, not onely in order to Exceter, but alſo to our Eaſterne imployment, I ſhall therefore give you an accompt, firſt of the ſteps we made into Cornwall; ſecondly, of the ſtate of the Country; thirdly, the condition of the Enemy; fourthly of our owne Army.

Upon our advance, the Generall gave me a Commiſſion to apply my ſelf to all means and expedients I could think of, for the ſtopping of the Eaſt parts of Cornwall from riſing and joyning with the Enemies Horſe, Foot being that which the Enemy (onely) wanted, and thoſe they brought to Torrington blown into ſeverall parts, and ſcattered, with a purpoſe not to appeare againe. Accordingly I rid to Plymouth, (though not without much difficulty) riding forty miles very neer the Enemies Guards; I dealt at Ply-

I063089

mouth with the Governour and the Committee there, who offered me all their furtherances, had Paſſes of them for any I ſhould imploy into Cornwall, and was much engaged to Mr. *Raw*, of that place, (a diſcreete able man, and induſtrious) who undertooke to agitate my deſignes with the Enemy, and deſerves exceeding well for his faithfulneſſe and wiſdome therein.

When I was thus thoughtfull how to ingage the Corniſh Foot from riſing in the Eaſt, (whoſe example would have had a preſent influence, on all the County) it pleaſed the Lord to ſend in one out of Cornwall, of very good quality, (and much intereſſed) who came diſguized into Plymouth, having the ſame deſigne with my ſelf, for ſtrong affections to the Parliament and their Cauſe, aſſuring me, that 3000. men ſtood ready to joine with the Enemies Horſe, yet that there were good hopes, that the leaders being rightly informed, might not onely prevent it, but conditionally cloſe with us.

Their chiefes were old Maſter *Colliton*, Colonell *Edgcomb* of *Mount Edgcomb*, Maſter *Thomas Lowre*, and Lieutenant Colonell *Scawen*.

To theſe I applyed my ſelf (by writing) and declared what I had in Commiſſion from the Generall, and ſent it by the party by me imployed, who returned again, and gave me hopes, and yet profeſſed much jealouſie on their part for the true performance on what I promiſed; and therefore to ſhorten my worke I offered my ſelfe an Hoſtage to them, till the Generall ſhould make good what I promiſed.

By the next return they invited me into Cornwall, where foure of them ſhould be ready, in the behalfe of themſelves and others, to treate with me, and as they

they ſaw cauſe, to accompany me to the Generall.

I adventured over to them, and there found Maſter *Corriton*, M. *Thomas Lowre*, M. *Glanvill*, the eldeſt Son of Serjeant *Glanvill*, and Major *Treviſe*; who being perſwaded of the truth of what I had engaged my ſelf for, were perſwaded to go to the Generall with me, and truly I found them very ingenuous, who had long before diſtaſted the Court way, and abhorred the practiſes of many of the Kings party.

By this time the Generall had entred Cornwall, and (at Stratton) our men beate up a Guard of the Enemies, and took 300. Horſe: theſe Comiſh Gentlemen, finding my words made good unto them, were much convinced and affected, receiving from the Generall Protections for themſelves and that ſide of the Country againſt the violence of our Souldiers, as alſo Letters of recommendation to the Parliament, for this their ſervice, which tooke ſuch effect, that not onely theſe 3000. men, ready for their march, retired to their houſes, but alſo the whole County where we came, either came in to us, or ſate ſtill; and truly theſe Eaſterne Gentlemen are very conſiderable, and I am perſwaded the old Maſter *Coriton*, (who ſuffered for *Magna Charta*, with Sir *John Elliot*,) will returne to his intereſt againe, with many more of them.

Upon our advance the Enemy retreated, the Generall lay at Bodman to refreſh our men, and to undeceive the County, if by any means we might, which the Lord himſelf was pleaſed to help us in, even to wonder, by an Iriſh Frigot, coming into Padſtow, and bringing Letters to *Hopton* and others, from the Earl of *Glamorgan*, that Jeſuited Papiſt, aſſuring them of ten thouſand Iriſh ready for *England*.

Theſe

These Letters the Generall commanded me to read, at a great meeting of the Country men, in a field neere Bodman, which had such successe, that the arguments I used unto them, and what I read was received with divers acclamations.

Upon this day fortnight a strong Party of ours was sent out to fall upon their maine Guard, under the command of that honest and worthy Gentleman Col. *Rich*, who accordingly met with one thousand of the Enemies Horse, routed them, and put them to flight, and tooke two hundred Horses, and one hundred Prisoners, amongst whom Master Generall *Perts*, who is since dead of his wounds, in whose pocket a copy of a Letter to the Princes Counsell about him, was found to this purpose.

That the Kings condition is so low is not our fault, we are not able to breake through the Enemy, nor strong enough to fight them; therefore are resolved to compound for our selves, and leave you to doe what you please. Sir, it came from the Military part.

Divers small skirmishes we had with them, Lieutenant Generall *Cromwell* himselfe, with some of his horses are setting out Parties and Guards, and attending their motions, adventured himselfe according to his wonted manner; and now the Enemies head Quarter being at Truro, and their chiefe strength not above five or sixe miles from us, the Generall resolving to fight them, or drive them to the Sea, sent them such Propositions with a Summons, as he did conceive would take off much of their Forces, and bring them all to a sudden agreement; and upon the sending of these, advanced still forward, and in our advance they met us with a desire of a Treaty, which accordingly was yeelded

ded unto, and held fixe daies, there being matters not a few to be considered of, as appears by the Articles.

Upon the last Lords Day, upon a Downe a mile from Truro, after I had Preached to our men, and divers of the Enemies, they began to deliver up their Armes and Horses.

The first Regiment was a *French* Regiment, under the command of Mounsier *Leplane* on Sunday last, yet I must much commend the civility of our Souldiers herein, that they let them passe without mocking, or jeering, or offering any affronts to them.

On Munday there were three Brigades more disbanded, and on Tuesday the rest according to the Articles; If it shall be objected, That the Generall dealt too gently with the County, or the Souldiery part there, I answer.

1 That the constitution of both the one and the other required it, the Souldiers being a strong Party, and in the Enemies Country.

2 The people needed it, and the same weapon proved their cure that made their wound, *Hoptons* moderation, civility that first deceived them, and the Generals now joyned with faithfulnesse tooke the scales from their eyes.

3 That we have all this year found it our advantage;

4 Meeknesse, sweetnesse and courage have been alwaies stirring in our Generall for dignioritty; we know that *Cæsar dando, sublenando, ignoscendo gloriam adeptus est*, but of the Generall we may say by the like meanes, *Patriam bene adeptus est.*

5 We beleeve, that the Conduct of this Army delight not to drinke blood.

6. The

6 The Parliaments aimes are not destructive, but reductive.

7 We look upon it as the Spirit of Christ in these latter times, and of the New Testament, to save, and not to ruine; and the Heathen could say:

Magnanimo satis est prædam prostrasse leoni,
Pugna suum finem, cum jacet hostis habet.

And this I am bold to adde, That such is the Providence of God, that if we had fought and beaten them, we should not have scattered them as now they are; God hath restrained from the Enemies themselves this acknowledgement, that their Gods is not like ours; their men not like ours, their Actions not like ours: the very words of one of their chiefe Commanders were these:

"*That their men counselled with drinke in their heads, ours with wit in their heads; our men silently prosecuted and effected their worke, their men vapoured and did nothing: we had a Conduct and Counsell, they acted without both;* yea, *that this Army was not to be fought against.*

And all the Enemy are engaged never to take up Armes against the Parliament, except some very few onely.

For the Country, the Gentry came almost all in unto us, the Cornish Souldiers brought us and laid downe their Armes at the Generalls foot, many of them professing they would but goe home and attend him.

Some of the Arguments I used in speaking and preaching to them in their publike Assemblies were;

First for the Parliament, they did as a Iustice of Peace, sent out a Counstable to apprehended such as had broake the civill Peace: The Cunstable beaten back from his office, hath more helpe sent him, Towne and Cuntry who are re-resolved to pursue his disturbers, our taking up of Armes was not against Cornish men, nor any perticular men, nor any perticular County, but against such as disturbed both them and us, which if they deliver them to us; we had the end of our travells.

Secondly I used an Argument of utily, wishing them to consider how they could subject without trade which are from the City of London, and other parts of the Kingdome.

Thirdly, What havock the Irish and French might make upon them if they landed; of which Gorings desperadoes have given them a taste.

Fourthly, How comfortably, and safe they might live under the Parliament; who are loath to loose such a Tribe as they were.

Fifthly, I answered a common murmuring amongst them, that their Country was never conquered. They were tould, that our Army was never conquered neither, and yet we were willing to wrestle with them in their one way, by embracing, and huging of them, they should conquer us, and we would conquer them, we would win the day, and they should gaine the field, or their fields: If they lost a service Booke they should have a better worship:

Sixthly, was from experience, the were wished to tract all the Parliaments proceedings, and the Armies in other Counties; whether they had had better Ministers, and better Magistrates placed then before.

Seventhly, was taken from the practise of the enemie, and this quærie was put to them, *what good the enemy had*

done for them; whether their Examples, and Practiſes, Councels and indeavours, had led them to more holineſſe, juſtneſſe, and exactneſſe.

Many of them confeſſed, *they were received by ill reports brought of the Parliament, and the cruelties of this Army, by Hoptons flateries, and the Courtiers, and by the Kings, and Princes Perſonall apperance amongſt them: and by their promiſes to them honouring of them, as more perticular appears, by this Declaration of the Kings, hanged up in every Church in the Country.*

CHARLES R.

WEE are ſo highly ſenſible of the extraordinary merit of Our County of Cornwall, *of the zeale for the Defence of Our Perſon and the juſt Rights of Our Crown, (in a time when We could contribute ſo little to Our owne Defence, or to their Aſſiſtance in a time when not onely no Reward appeared, but great and probable dangers were threatned to Obedience and Loyalty;) of their great and eminent Courage and Patience in their indefatigable Proſecution of their great Work againſt ſo potent an Enemy, block't with ſo ſtrong, rich, and populous Cities, and ſo plentifully furniſhed and ſupplyed with Men, Arms, Money, Ammunition and Proviſion of all kinds; And of the Wonderfull ſucceſſe with which it hath pleaſed Almighty God (though with the loſſe of ſome moſt eminent Perſons, Who ſhall never be forgotten by Us) to reward their Loyalty and Patience by many ſtrange Victories over their and Our Enemies, in deſpight of all humane Probability, and all imaginable diſadvantages; That as Wee cannot be forgetfull of ſo great deſerts, ſo We cannot but deſire to publiſh to all the World, and perpetuate to all Time the Memory of theſe their merits, and of Our acceptance of the ſame. And to that end Wee doe hereby render Our Royall thankes to that Our County, in the moſt publike and moſt laſting manner We can deviſe, commanding Copies hereof to be Printed and publiſhed, and one of them to be read in every Church and Chappell therein, and to be kept for ever as a Record in the ſame, That as long as the Hiſtory of theſe Times, and of this Nation ſhall continue, the memory of how much that County hath merited from Us and Our Crowne, may be derived with it to Poſterity.*

Given at Our Campe at *Sudeley* Caſtle the Tenth of September, 1643.

And

And lastly, their lude and ungodly Ministers had councelled them, and exampled them to the greatest part of their misery, I make no doubt, they may prove a People of Gods praise, may they but enjoy a faithfull Magistracie and Ministry; for which, my most earnest and humble request is to this Honourable House: me thinkes they cry at every Gate, *bread, bread, for the Lords sake.*

I wish there were some Evangelicall Ministers in each County of the Kingdom, that poor People might know there is a God; that they might fear him, and love him, and be acquainted with his Son, who is theirs and our life.

The County is all cleerly reduced, except *Pendennis*, *Helford*, and the Mount; which the very Countrey (I hope) will bee willing to reduce themselves, *Feymouth* Harbour is free to us; we have taken St. Mawes Castle, with Twelve peices of Ordnance in it, and one called the Roaring-Meg, a choice peice of brasse: the Generall is sending Eastward some of his forces, towards Barnstable and Exeter, and intends (having blockt up Pe dennis) to return himself.

There came two out of Exeter to us, who caried in Propositions with them; and of Barnstable we hope to give a good accoun shortly.

At Foy upon Munday last, we took a ship called the Greene Knight, having 16 peices of Ordnance, and richly laden, they being ignorant that the Harbour was ours.

Your Affaires have a good complexion upon them at present; and doubtlesse, whilest you imploy good men, they will be good for you.

I have observed in the whole Tract of this Western Work, divers promises fulfilled; As that the Lord would send an Hornet amongst them: that is, a Spirit of fear, and that they shall fly when none pursues them: wee could seldome make them stand any where; they never offered to beat up a Guard

of ours at any time, though they had Four Thousand fighting Horse.

I have been tould in their quarters where I lay, as 3. times my lot was to lie in Hoptons own quarters in bed, where they tould me upon everie Alarme, *the sh kings of Belshazer was up on them*, one passage aboue the rest was this; 40. of them lieing in an house at Saint Austel, two Coults that wre feeding upon a Common, in a could night, came for shelter to the side of the house. They tocke an Alarme within, charged the Coults to stand; but they not understand the Language, kept on their way, put them to such a fight, that they tumbled one upon the back of another to get away.

Sometimes I thought of that promise in the first Psalme, that they shall be scattered as Chaffe before the winde, they are gone into severall Countries.

Sometimes, the Lord saith he will bring his wheele upon them, and break them, we saw their power broken, their Councells broken, their intrests broken, their expectations broken, who would have broke the verie Axeltree of the State.

Sometimes I thought of the Prophesy; when the Lord saith he would powre contempt upon Princes, especiallie when I read writings from the Prince, thus, *dated at our Court at Sillie*: And though he be unwilling to play with words, yet I could wish that that place, and name might ever be the portion of those that councell Princes to their own Ruin.

Incedit insidiam cupiens vitare quietem.

Manie of such like punishes have been fulfilled in our sight.

And

And now I must be thankfull to those Gentlemen of this House, that have beene carefull for Moneyes, Cloathes, and Ammunition for the Army, being the Sinewes of Our Worke, and yet must complaine; that after many Letters written from place to place, we have not had one ship from the Parliament upon the Coast, to joine with us in any Designe, or to meet the Enemie when they went away with their Welsh: onely Captain Plunkets Ship lying at Plimmouth was willing to do their utmost, and Sir George Ayscugh, that commands the expedition, brought us the last money to Foy, and is earnestlie seeking out which way to serve us to the uttermost.

I would say something for my selfe, and yet so prove an Acombe, as not worth a minute of your time; though you have been pleased to bear with my rudenesse.

Since my last being in the City, I have beene by some represented as one scandalizing of others; which as it hath no truth in it: so I blesse God, that there is a Parliament to appeale unto, and I know not the cause hereof but from my forwardnesse and faithfulnesse to the Work in hand.

This I am bold to say, *Though it should be accompted a Crime to serve the Parliament, and I might be sory for the Despiters, which it shall never make me weary of my Duty, nor my Masters.*

If in my death the State might be a gainer, I have sometimes thought I might be willing to come to that trial, if my life may serve you, you may command it, for I must make the same profession that he did to *Cæsar*, that your former favours have done me that injurie, that I must live, and die ungratefull.

Theſe are my laſt Requeſts, and the very ſithings of my ſoule, that

Firſt, ſince the Spirit of God hath done all your Workes for you, that Spirit may never be ſadded by you, that glads yours: It hath been an old Jeſuiticall practiſe, to beat Religion with Religions: I ſay no more.

Secondly, that you may live to ſee that Top-ſtone laid; to which you may all cry grace, grace.

Thirdly; And laſtly, That when your ſoules ſhall ſit upon your trembling lips, and take care of your bodies, your accompts may be as comfortable, as your pains have beene indefatigable, and more. So prayes

HUGH PETERS.

We hear for certain, that Greenvill, Culpepper, Sir Nicholas Criſp, and divers others are in France. Hopton and Wentworth, and divers others were going from Penthancts thither on Tueſday laſt: the French and others have leave to take ſhipping at Plymouth 20 or 30 are allowed to go to the King: divers Iriſh and Welſh are gone into Pendennis, where there are many diſtractions, and Sir Henry Killegrew moſt vilde and violent, who upon Sunday laſt burnt the ancient houſe of that name, called Arwennock, now belonging to Sir Peter Killegrew. The Prince remains ſtill in Scillie, expecting what end his Father will make with the Parliament. The ſame day a Letter was ſent to Mr. *Peters* as followeth,

Mr. Peters,

THE *Houſe of Commons have commanded me to give you notice, that they have appointed*

appointed a Day of Thanſgiving (for theſe bleſſings upon our Armies) upon Thurſday come Sennight, and that they have deſired your ſelfe, and Mr. Carel *to Preach upon that Day at Chriſt-Church.*

Saterday the 21. of
March 1645.

Your affectionate Friend,
OL. St. JOHN,

Mr. *Peters* being to preach at Brides, Sunday the 22. of March, a paper was delivered to him of News, which Major Temple (who was in the fight) brought, of the routing of Sir Jacob Aſhley: of which here followeth a Copie.

This morning, March 21. Col. Morgan his Forces, with the Forces of Sir William Brereton (who were joined the night before) fell upon Sir Jacob Aſhley and all his Forces intended for Oxford, to joine with the King, and at Stow in the Ould (in Glouceſter-ſhire, after a ſore conflict on both ſides) Sir Jacob was totally routed; himſelf and 1500. taken priſoners, and their Cariages: our word was, *God be our guide*, the word of the Enemies was, *Patrick and George*.

Stow, March 21. 1645.

FINIS.